

## REGULAR MEETING

Reverend Warren Smith from St. John's Lutheran Church led the prayer.

**ABSENT: RICHARD DELLAPENNA, ALFRED TEDESCO, JR.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RC-2** YEAS: WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA,  
CHEREPKO..... 5

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Received the audit of the Carnegie Free Library of McKeesport.

- Received a copy of a letter sent by Dennis Pittman, City Administrator, to Daniel Cessna, District Executive, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, RE: Traffic Light/Intersection, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Market Street.
- Received a letter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation, RE: Reimbursement Notification, Severe Winter Adjustment.
- Received an email from Robert Hurley of the Allegheny County Department of Community Development RE: Breakdown of the Bids on the Flyover Ramps.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Dennis Pittman to Michele Baich Matuch RE: HPRP Administrative Agreement.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Bethany Bauer, Community Development Director, to Dexter Hairston, Director of the YMCA of McKeesport, RE: ESG Emergency Shelter Grant 2008.
- Received the Weed & Seed Initiative Activity Report for the Month of June 2010.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Police Chief Washowich said Good Evening. He said he hoped everyone's holiday weekend was nice. He said the Police Department activities involved the issuance of 251 traffic citations and 191 arrests for the month of June. He said that is on track with last year's record. He said they orange-tagged 57 vehicles and towed 10 of those. He said there were three handicapped parking applications and they initiated two spots for residents.
  - Chief Washowich said the Fourth of July activities were great as far as public safety went. He said the feedback he received from some of the people said it

was the best ever. He said there were a lot of people from out of town that experienced it. He said friends of his from out of town said they will be back next year. He said they did a good job planning the Fourth of July activities.

- Chief Washowich said on June 28 and 29, he had the opportunity to attend a training seminar in State College and it was a Weed and Seed Liaison Training. He said they had four training sessions that were really good. He said he had a great opportunity to meet a lot of people in the state. He said they studied productive groups, meeting facilitation, grant writing and cultural diversity. He said he attended the training seminar with Sherry Ward. He said he got a lot of creative advice from a lot of other City liaisons.
- Chief Washowich said he placed an information packet in front of each of the Councilpersons concerning the Nixle. He said to summarize this, he thinks it is a great opportunity. He said it is a communication service that notifies the residents of any alerts that the police or the City government would like to tell people. He said, in short, the residents would visit the website, [nixle.com](http://nixle.com), register their phone number and email address and if there is any alert that they would like to give to the public, they would simply type a message on the computer and hit send and it would go to everybody. He said a big part, of course, in public safety is going to be the crime alerts. He said they will take advantage of this entire system using some positive alerts also. He said they could notify the residents concerning community group meetings they have or any festivities they have that they need to let the groups know about. He said it is free and the City is now signed up. He said they are going to come up with a little bit of print work that they are going to give to the local resource office

to see if they can get this publicized in the Daily News and get some positive response from it. He said that is nixle.com. He said he does not want them to get that confused with another alert that they most recently initiated two weeks ago when they had a missing 38-year-old female. He said last month they signed up for a free service called "A Child Is Missing." He said that service is very similar and is a reverse 9-1-1 system. He said what happens is the police give "A Child is Missing" information on the missing person, then the service calls everybody that is in the phone directory for the area and gives a prerecorded message which describe that the person is missing and to be on the lookout for the person. He said they signed up for this service a month ago and they used it two weeks ago and got a lot of phone calls to make sure it was authentic. He said he wanted them to know that if anyone asks them, this is authentic and it is called "A Child is Missing." He said it was recommended by District Attorney Stephen Zappala and they signed up for it free of charge. He said they have "A Child is Missing" and "Nixle" as far as communication facilities for the residents. He said does anyone have any questions on those two.

- Ms. Walker said can they start using the Nixle now.
- Chief Washowich said they can start using it now. He said as of yesterday they are officially signed up. He said the messages will be run through his office. He said if they are community messages, they must be approved by the Mayor's office. He said if they are crime alerts, they must be approved by him.
- Chief Washowich said the Police have worked real hard in the last month to get to know a lot of different groups in the community and he is very proud to have

met a lot of people. He has gotten to realize and recognize that there are a lot of people who are trying to do a lot of work specifically for at-risk youth. He said the list is endless concerning who is helping and there is a lot of credit due to a lot of people so he can't sit here and say one group is doing better than the other but he can assure them that the Police Department is trying to work with every group that is reaching out to them in support of a positive reinforcement concerning their at-risk youth. He said are there any questions concerning the Police Department.

- Ms. Walker said she does not have a question but just wanted to commend all of them because she knows of the hard work they have been putting in with all of the overtime. She said they have been really open with her and a lot of other people by coming out to these activities.
- Chief Washowich said thank you.
- Mr. McLaughlin said it is good seeing all of the Police on the streets and in the different areas. He said it is also good seeing the Chief everywhere. He said he sees the Chief five or six times a day somewhere.
- Chief Washowich said he has to commend the officers because they were in a fiscal situation where the Weed and Seed budget was not approved by the State so the officers agreed to work for time compensation as long as it did not incur overtime. He said these men and women really stepped up to the plate and did a lot of compensation work for them. He said the budget is approved now so they have a little leeway as far as saturation patrols go. He said the saturation patrols are out there now and they are very effective. He said

with saturation patrols come aggressive enforcement so they all have to keep in that in mind. He said they may have to field a few complaints regarding the Police Department enforcing the laws and they have to remain positive on that because that is the way they have to do things to make sure that everybody is safe.

- Chief Washowich said the curfew is an issue that they are trying to kindly work with. He said they are trying to be civil in enforcing curfew violators. He said this Friday ... they have given a lot of warnings over the last several weeks. He said this Friday they are going out in full force and the initiative is to arrest curfew violators. He said they will have 6 men working and patrolling certain neighborhoods where they have noticed an influx of curfew violators and specifically ... not necessarily kids standing on their front porches but ... kids who are standing on their front porches and disrupting the neighborhood. He said based on these forms here, which are silent complaint forms, they have a list of different areas they are going to target. He said they have been targeting these areas nicely, but this Friday there will be a lot of curfew arrests if there are juveniles in violation.
- Mr. McLaughlin said the curfew is 10:00 p.m., correct?
- Ms. Diggs said at 12:00 last night they could have arrested about 15 people on her block.
- Chief Washowich said that is something that ... they are trying to be civil but are trying to have zero tolerance as well. He said it is tough because it is warm out and there are a lot of people that spend time on their front porch or back porch.
- Mr. Segina said he surmised that this will not be the last weekend they will be going after curfew violators.

- Chief Washowich said absolutely not. He said saturation patrols have been in effect for four weeks now and the curfew this Friday is top priority. He said violence was a priority before, and now they are going to start leading into certain things that are disrupting the neighborhoods and curfew violation is at the top of the list on Friday and Saturday actually.
- Ms. Diggs said these kids came through her neighborhood and Thomas Green and some officers came to break them up and they found two guns.
- Chief Washowich said because she mentioned that they found two guns, they have to keep in mind that when the officers are approaching groups of kids, they have to follow policies and procedures. He said they do look somewhat aggressive sometimes and do have officers that are standing at the ready. He said they have to be prepared to defend their officers for their safety. He said do they have any other questions.
- Mr. McLaughlin said he knows that it took him to become Police Chief to get his picture in the paper from a few years back but it was a good picture.
- Mayor Brewster said he has a number of things. He said there was a special preparation and the E-crete was put on the Marshall Drive Extension last week. He said that is a special product and a new product from a new business that moved into town. He said that it was done at the business's expense and comes with a 10-year guarantee. He said they are going to try it and test it on that stretch of the road. He said it will be re-stripped so they will have the yellow line on the road again. He said he thought it was worth investigating that process because it could add years to their paving in the future.

- Mr. Segina said could they use that on Evans Avenue on the concrete part from Versailles down to Fifth.
- Mayor Brewster said yes. He said it can be used if you fill in the holes. He said it can be used over the binder. He said if they put down the first coat of asphalt and then put the finish coat on that makes it look nice, they could use this E-crete instead of that final coat. He said the E-crete is a little more expensive but it comes with a 10-year guarantee if the company puts it on. He said he has been following this and PennDot came out for the presentation so in future years they are going to budget for some of this. He said they are actually are thinking about doing it on Versailles Avenue.
- Mr. Segina said is it going over concrete on Evans.
- Mayor Brewster said yes, it can go over anything.
- Mr. Segina said Greeky put that in ages ago.
- Mayor Brewster said that it is a process that he thought was worth experimenting.
- Mr. McLaughlin said that they can basically drive on it an hour after it is done.
- Mayor Brewster said obviously the new paver is being used. He said there have been some questions. He said unfortunately every year they have to do the milling and grind all the old asphalt off all at one time because that work they get done through the County. He said the asphaltting of those roads does not go as fast as the milling so there are some rough roads for a while. He said within the next four weeks they should be okay, get caught up and should get them all in binders so they will be smooth. He said then they will go back and put the final coat on them. He said West



Fifth Avenue is proceeding nicely. He said he thinks they are doing a really great job. He said he thinks he can safely say after careful study and input from just about everyone he can think of that it looks like they may have enough money to do the resurfacing from Marathon Oil down to the bridge which was another meeting that happened every week as to how they were going to pave the ramps once the bridge was completed. He said he thinks they saved enough in the West Fifth Avenue budget to cure another problem. He thinks everyone will be very happy with that when it is completed. He said the flyover ramp bid has been awarded and is in their packet. He said they should see construction start soon on the flyover ramp into the millsite, which without question will give them opportunity for business development. He said they have had an awful lot of inquiries from large companies with 400, 500, 600, 700, or 800 employees who are interested in the site about getting over those tracks without being delayed by the trains. He said that is an important issue to these companies. He said for those who are clamoring for jobs, there is a sequence of events that have to occur. He said he thinks that will open up doors.

- Mayor Brewster said he submitted an application to the County for stimulus money for demolition on Bailey Avenue. He said they have gone out to bid and those bids will be awarded on July 27. He said they will be able to tear down approximately 15 houses from one end of Bailey down to the other. He said that is an area that has been in need of demolition. He said it will complement the new Cornell school and the demolition that will be associated with that project. He said that entire corridor in the Seventh Ward will be very clean and look a lot better. He said that demolition will probably start in August.

- Mr. McLaughlin said what is the time frame on Fifth Avenue.
- Mayor Brewster said is Mr. McLaughlin trying to hurry up his presentation. He said he is trying to go fast. He said that work is being done by an outside contractor and Mr. Pittman has pressured them to try and be done by the Christmas parade, which is in November but he is not as optimistic. He said the contract goes through April. He said they are hoping they will be done by Christmas. He said they are making good progress and he thinks they can start to see it is going to be wider. He said the old dead trees are going to be gone and there will be new benches, new lamp posts, and new parking meters. He said it is going to be nice. He said they think they have in their minds eye how they can make that two way which is being done to help the businesses. He said the businesses and police don't like one way. He said they think that will encourage development on Fifth Avenue as well. He said the answer to the question is by the end of the year. He said as they can see there have been a lot of projects going on concurrently – demolition, road reconstruction, and the flyover ramp. He said he and Dennis have met with two or three suitors for the millsite and one with 800 jobs and the other with between 250 and 500 jobs. He said they are all speculative and in the pipeline but have not said no. He said they have given them tours and presentations so they are excited about that. He said if they put this into perspective ... the national unemployment, loss of jobs, and violence have been much more prevalent in other communities and McKeesport takes it very personally. He said they should because some people connect the violence with the lack of jobs and the lack of education and all of that is true. He said McKeesport is building some new schools, while others cannot find

new businesses, McKeesport is finding them. He said all of the ingredients to cut down on violence is in the pipeline. He said he is a big believer that infrastructure is important. He said if you have dark, blighted, littered streets with bad dilapidated homes, it breeds crime. He said they are trying to light the city up and clean it up. He said they are tearing down a house about every four days and are very fortunate to even have the money to do that. He said Mr. Scaithe gave them \$100,000 for demolition, which they are in the middle of using now. He said more demolition, which is County money from the stimulus money, will start in August. He said then there will be demolition using CD money ... Letterman is the contractor who is working with that so they will actually have two demolition contractors working at the same time. He said he thinks he can say this without over committing, but they are also very close to getting the Vienna Bakery building in Highland Grove torn down. He said Citizen's Bank apparently holds the paper and that would give them the perfect segue into tearing down the old red school in Highland Grove. He said from the playground down there will be three blocks of property that will be available to build new houses. He said the reason he brings that up is that Lani is here this evening and they have finally closed the deal on the three new houses at the Reservoir site. He said those houses will start quickly.

- Ms. Lani Temple said the houses should be started the last week of July or the first week of August.
- Mayor Brewster said these houses will be on the tax rolls. He said once again McKeesport is building new houses on the Reservoir site. He said they should be proud of that. He said they have a lot going on at one time. He said they have a river rescue boat that should

be there Labor Day weekend, which they were able to secure through the CD money. He said Bob Full from the County has been a very good friend to the City and has offered up some equipment that would have cost the City quite a bit of money to put on this boat. He said there are floatable blackboards, vests, throw rings and all of the other items that are typically required on a first-class jet-propelled river rescue boat. He said they will be prepared with the new police vehicles, new fire truck, new river rescue boat, and new paver.

- Mayor Brewster said that brings them to one of the last major topics, which is the violence. He said he is sure that Fawn is going to speak on it but they have an event this weekend at Harrison Village, the yearly 3-day event reunion. He said Fawn has her event next Saturday, the Day of Peace. He said in August, Ms. Bray and Larry have their Community Day that they have had for years in Harrison. He said that is on August 28 and 29. He said any contributions would be appreciated because they buy food and hot dogs and all of these events are in need of financing. He said anyone who wants to contribute would be appreciated. He said they are hoping to get the community out and the young people out. He said they started a new task force in Grandview. He said they talked about the violence and everyone seems to be on board. He said the police coverage is obviously expensive. He said they are not going to let that stop them from what they have to do but at the end of the year he is going to be asking Council ... there was \$225,000 for snow and there will probably be that much for extra police work as well. He said there will probably be an extra \$500,000 hole to fill. He said while they talk about all the great things they are doing, at the end of the day they will have to find the money to pay for it although

he has no doubt they will find it. He said as a good friend of his once said ... a few rabbits.

- Mr. Segina said he could probably go in his back yard and open up that coffee can.
- Mayor Brewster said you should talk Mr. Segina, you and Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Malinchak should show where your coffee cans are, then they will be alright. He said he does want to encourage anyone who has a few dollars to give something. He said these events are not cheap and they are volunteers doing it. He said if anyone can contribute even a few dollars it would be helpful. He said he wants to say that the outpouring of the community throughout the City has been great, not just in Crawford and Harrison. He said the Housing Authority has opened the doors up. He said he is excited about what the churches are doing. He said they are trying to make sure they are not stepping on each other and trying to orchestrate all of this. He said he knows the Chief has his thoughts on the investigation on the some of the shootings. He said he has his own perspective and he thinks if they solve one or two, they may solve them all. He said that does not mean that they should not be prepared for something that might not happen in a month, a day or a year from now. He said he thinks they are doing a lot better than most communities on that issue.
- Mr. Segina said he would just like to add that he is just happy to see a community initiative as opposed to people coming from out of town and trying to address the City's violence problems. He said there are a lot of good people in this town that can do a lot better job than what they do and he hopes that continues. He said they need to place some role models in places

where the kids can appreciate them and perhaps turn into role models themselves.

- Mayor Brewster said he thinks Darryl makes a good point. He said there has been some controversy with some outside organizations that want to help. He said he met with the County today and his position is that they are on the menu and he respects what they do. He said in some cases, they have used them and will use them if they feel they need that expertise. He said they may need the expertise, but they all hope that they won't. He said they do have a lot of people in McKeesport, and some here tonight who have experience in this field and he wants to give them an opportunity because they know the families and the children. He said even regarding the curfew. He said he is out every night, regardless of whether it is a holiday, bad weather or whatever, even in the winter. He said there are way too many young people out at midnight. He said they do warn them. He said he said he has talked to at least 2000 young people and most of them are good kids, maybe all of them. He said they have to start getting the attention of the parents because that seems to be where the breakdown is. He said the goal is not to arrest these young people but to get the attention of the parents. He said he thinks once they do this once or twice, most people will understand that they are trying to keep kids safe. He said it is just a culture that when it is 90° out and kids are walking to the store or to their friends house, it is hard to tell them that it is not safe, but they have to start enforcing and using all the tools they have available to them.
- Mayor Brewster said the Fourth of July was wonderful. He said they now have Summer Concerts every Sunday free to the public. He said not bad for a City that

doesn't have any money. He said the concerts have been great and the fireworks were great. He said he actually had an occasion to ride through the park and they would be shocked at the number of people who are on Grandview Avenue, Haler Heights, and the Mound. He said they are not all in Renzie Park. He said there are a lot of people over by the Tank, on Penn State's Campus ... hundreds of people. He said he was surprised. He said they are spread out and a lot of people are enjoying the fireworks. He said International Village is right around the corner and Darryl has left a solid foundation for them to work from. He said knock on wood they have been able to keep 98% of that going without any interruption. He said they thank Darryl for that. He said the Rally in the Valley will take place August 7. He said they will have a half a dozen different events ... performers, preachers, musicians, elected officials, International Village for Children. He said it will be the second year in a row for the International Village for Children on the Monday before International Village. He said there is a lot of good stuff going on and it is a shame that one negative thing seems to get the attention. He said as community leaders they need to make sure that the next day while they are working on that problem that they continue to talk about the good things because it does not help to bring business in or get people to move there if they overdiscuss an issue that is already in the good hands of those who know what they are doing. He said he started off in 2004, 10 days into his term with a quadruple homicide and unfortunately he got way too much experience in that and he does not like it. He said it is the world they live in and what has come out of this, which has never come out before, because before it was only lip service ... they actually have human beings, a lot of people who are actually

doing something without pointing a finger. He said they are being productive and trying to cooperate with the police. He said he has seen it more in the past few years than he has ever seen it and that is a good thing. He said it is not easy to stand up and say you saw something. He said that concludes his report unless they have a question for him.

- Mr. McLaughlin said he doesn't have any questions for him and thinks he is doing a great job.
- Mayor Brewster said thank you.
- Ms. Walker said she has a question. She said for the citizens in the audience she would like to give them a timeline for the paving that has not been finished. She said she thinks he said two weeks yesterday.
- Mayor Brewster said Nick thinks within 4 weeks they should have most of the milled roads covered with the first coating which will make it a smoother ride. He said that will make it a smoother ride and then they will have to cycle that when they put the final coating on. He said on Grandview Avenue on the infamous rumble strips, he has to tell them a funny story. He said people were complaining about the rumble strips so what they discovered was that there were railroad ties underneath the brick, which rotted and the bricks came down and created the buckling of the asphalt. He said a couple of years ago they paved over that and thought it would take care of it and it did not. He said they actually have to dig that whole road up. He said while he was explaining to one fellow who insisted that he needed to do something with the road, he went two blocks down, and the guy said as soon as Grandview gets paved they are going to see speeding through here so what is he going to do about it. He said he



didn't even have it paved yet and they were complaining about the speeding. He said try to bear with him, they know they need to keep the roads smooth. He said people just get fickle. He said in four weeks they said they should be in pretty decent shape.

- Ms. Walker said what about Twelfth Street.
- Mayor Brewster said he is probably going to vacate Twelfth Street. He said it is not going to be open. He said before the season is over and the year is done, he wanted to try and put a walkway down to Market Street between Walnut and Market so that people can walk up there to the bus stops and sidewalks. He said they are going to do that connection before the season is over.
- Mr. McLaughlin said weren't they going to have the trucks come down that way or are they still going to come down Thirteenth.
- Mayor Brewster said they are going to come down Thirteenth.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- Ms. Walker said she wanted to start her report with something she has been discussing since she started on Council. She said that is the issue of Public Safety and violence. She said she may sound like a broken record to the Council and Mayor but it is hard for her to move past the issue when people are dying. She said when African American men are dying in the high numbers that they are dying it is difficult. She said she knows it is not just in McKeesport that it is a problem but it is a problem everywhere. She said she is on Council in McKeesport so she feels like it is harder for her to move past it when lives are being lost. She said it is something that is deep in her

heart that she has been praying about. She said she is excited to see that people are reacting to it but she just wishes that they would be more proactive instead of reactive. She said it is something that she has been bringing up since she started in January. She said she hopes that the things that are going on stay consistent because they have to stay consistent when they are addressing this issue of public safety. She said if they die down, the problems are just going to pick back up. She said everyone is gung ho about it now but she just hopes and prays that everyone remains consistent with it. She said since January when she started talking about it she started going out and actually seeing what people have been doing and there is a lot going on that she did not even know about. She said there are a lot of people doing things and she has attended a lot of meetings, talked to churches and has been to a lot of Weed and Seed meetings and has seen that there was a lot of programming out there for birth to ten years old. She said they need to do more with the eleven to eighteen year olds, especially the at-risk youth. She said they have to move forward from the thinking of not letting outsiders in because that is an old way of thinking. She said they should be more modern about it because Allegheny County has a hub of programs so the residents of McKeesport should have access to those programs as well. She said they should have that open door policy when it comes to working with groups. She said there are a lot of groups in Allegheny County that have their own funding and their own money so they do not need money from the City and will come in and work with the residents. She said she thinks they should be allowed to do that. She said the residents then can tell them yes or no because that is their decision. She said they don't have to work with them if they don't want to but they should have the option to do so if they want to. She said regardless, if she doesn't like someone, if the program is effective and has good

outcomes, then they have to have that open door policy because they let outsiders live here, most of the crime is done by outsiders, outsiders have businesses here, they move here, come to eat here, so they should have an open door policy. She said she thinks it is good that they get the community involved but they need to be open to some of those programs that they have here. She said they need to continue to recognize that the public safety and violence issue is an issue because it is an issue in Pittsburgh as well and the Mayor and Council there have recognized it and go to a lot of things like our Mayor does. She said there are seven people sitting up here outside of the Mayor so as a Council they have to address it and recognize that it is going on and have to be proactive about it because people are dying. She said to her that is huge. She said people are dying. She said they have to get practical about that and can't always depend on the Mayor to do that because there are seven of them up here. She said moving on to solutions, she has some solutions she wanted to present. She said when it comes to Weed and Seed, she has been to a lot of those meetings and she thinks what the police do is excellent. She said she has attended some of those meetings, but she doesn't believe that the whole community is represented. She said she also feels that the programming does not serve enough age groups. She said the programming is good but doesn't seem pertinent to the at-risk youth. She said when Resolutions come across her desk for Weed and Seed she will be looking at them closely with regard to her vote. She said would like the Recreation Centers in Harrison and Crawford to be open until at least 9:00 p.m. She said she knows that was done in the past. She said that is HUD property that is there for the residents and it was done in the past and was successful.

- Mayor Brewster said that is not going to happen.
- Ms. Walker said why not.

- Mayor Brewster said because it is private property and he told her before that when people come in with insurance coverage they will be open. He said they just got a lawsuit yesterday ....
- Ms. Walker said but what about the ....
- Mayor Brewster said just hear him out. He said they just got a lawsuit ... does she want to cover that.
- Ms. Walker said she doesn't know how he could get sued.
- Mayor Brewster said they just got sued. He said somebody said it should be open.
- Ms. Walker said it is there for the residents though.
- Mayor Brewster said well the residents have it, it is open for the tenant council.
- Ms. Walker said that is what she said, open it until 9:00 for the residents.
- Mayor Brewster said who is going to pay for all this that they want to just open up, he is curious about this.
- Ms. Walker said people will volunteer to do it.
- Mayor Brewster said she just thinks there is an endless pit of money and there isn't.
- Ms. Walker said she never said that.
- Mayor Brewster said why doesn't she get the school district to open their gyms.

- Ms. Walker said she is trying to work with the school district to open their gyms.
- Mayor Brewster said when she gets them to open the gyms then she can come see him, because they have overburdened ....
- Ms. Walker said she is trying to get them to open their gym but this is not the school district, this is the Council.
- Mayor Brewster said we have overburdened the Housing Authority enough.
- Ms. Walker said this has nothing to do with the Housing Authority. She said the Housing Authority is not going to come there and sit with them, the residents will do that.
- Mayor Brewster said he will sit with her and talk because she clearly doesn't understand the process.
- Ms. Walker said this has nothing to do with the process. She said it is HUD property, it is there for the residents so it should be open to the residents. She said she does not see what the big deal is. She said if they have people who are volunteering to sit there then they need to have them sit there. She said she doesn't understand what the problem is.
- Mayor Brewster said he has tried to explain it to her but he will try again. He said they should talk side bar.
- Ms. Walker said yes because there was supposed to be a meeting with herself and the Housing Authority that never occurred when she brought the idea up before.

- Mayor Brewster said he has been there for 20 years and he knows what it is there for, he put it there. He said who do you think built it.
- Ms. Walker said then they need to open it for them.
- Mayor Brewster said he kind of resents the fact that she thinks that ... she wasn't there 20 years ago when he said he thought they needed to put up a recreation building.
- Ms. Walker said why is he resenting that she is giving him an idea.
- Mayor Brewster said she can't just arbitrarily make statements like that, there is a whole organization out there.
- Ms. Walker said make statements like what "open it until 9:00?"
- Mayor Brewster said does she want to debate it now or talk later, he will stay here all night, he doesn't care.
- Ms. Walker said she would like to talk about it later.
- Mayor Brewster said they are not going to open it up just because that doesn't solve a problem. He said someone has to police it and someone has to pay for it. He said he just got a lawsuit because someone wanted in it, they let them in and he got hurt and now he is suing. He said they just can't do that. He said there is a solicitor up there who will tell them that they are not doing it. He said as far as the tenants are concerned, anytime he has been asked he has made those places more than available. He said he thinks maybe if she sits down with him and some of the people, she would know that ....

- Ms. Walker said she has sat down with some of the people and this is what they are telling her.
- Mayor Brewster said he is down there every night at 10:00 and the door is open. He said what does he want her to say.
- Ms. Walker said the door is not open.
- Mayor Brewster said he sees people in there. He said are they breaking in or are they just in there.
- Ms. Walker said she doesn't know because she is down there and she doesn't see it open.
- Mayor Brewster said he will pick her up and take her down her down there.
- Ms. Walker said the last issue is the McKeesport Recreation Director. She said she thinks the City needs to do more as far as recreation because they do call it recreation with some of the kids in the City. She said she would like to see the Recreation Director come here with a report monthly as well so they can know the kind of activities he is working on. She said that is all she has.
- Mr. Segina said on the Agenda tonight is Bill #151 which the Administration has drafted to give \$22,000 to the McKeesport Development Corporation. He said MDC was ready to go out of business at the end of August and this would give them time to work on some additional projects and keep them going for a while until some of these projects come to fruition. He said there is an uptick in interest in businesses coming into town. He said they take care of the smaller businesses. He said there are expansions and new businesses coming in. He said it is important for MDC to continue to take care of these businesses and even to

expand. He said he takes his hat off to the Mayor and Dennis and whoever else is involved in this and thank you to the board and the staff of MDC.

- Ms. Diggs said she would like to wish everyone a safe summer and she will see them in September.
- Mr. Cherepko had nothing to report.
- Mr. McLaughlin had nothing to report.
- Mr. McLaughlin asked for a motion to reappoint James Brewster to the Housing Authority Board.

**MOTION:        Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To reappoint Mayor James Brewster to the McKeesport Housing Authority."**

<b>RC-3</b>	YEAS:	WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA, CHEREPKO.....	5
	NAYS:	NONE.....	0

- Mr. McLaughlin said does the Mayor have appointments that he would like to make?
  - Mayor Brewster said Ms. Williams has the appointments that Mr. Brown would like to make to the Recreation Commission.
  - Ms. Williams said that Mr. Brown is asking for the reappointment of Ron Melocchi, Tammy Toth, Marcellus Allen, Cheryl Cotter, Steve Vasko, Chuck Jarrell, and Patty Bosnak. She said he also has a recommendation for an appointment of Bernie Hobson.
  - Mayor Brewster said since Ms. Walker brought it up and if she was willing, he would ask that they add Ms. Walker to the Recreation Board.



- Ms. Walker said that was fine.
- Mayor Brewster said that way she would be involved. He said because they don't get to all their meetings and it might be better if they share that and if she doesn't mind serving on that board. He said he was on it at one time. He said it is a good board.
- Mr. McLaughlin said did Ms. Williams add Ms. Walker's name.
- Ms. Williams said yes she did.

**MOTION:**      **Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To reappoint and appoint members of the Recreation Commission as recommended by Jim Brown and to also add Fawn Walker as a member."**

**RC-4**      YEAS:      WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, CHEREPKO .... 4  
                  NAYS:      SEGINA ..... 1

**CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:**

**KEITH MURPHY, 907 EVANS AVENUE, McKEESPORT, PA 15132.** Mr. Murphy said thank you for having him today so that he can express his concerns over the recent violence. He said he has 18 years of executive diversity experience at the two most prolific and notorious housing complexes known as Northview Heights and St. Clair Village. He said he has seen a great deal of success but also a great deal of violence. He said on the Northside alone there has been over 163 deaths since 1993. He said 50% of them involved someone from Northview Heights as either the perpetrator or the victim. He said what he does know is that with successful programming, and he agrees with Councilwoman Fawn Walker, consistency will breed the success.

He said his commitment from this day on will be that he will be in McKeesport come this new school year to offer a program called the Positive Outcomes With Excuses Removed Program which is the POWER Program. He said it will target young African American males between the ages of 10 and 18 years old. He said on top of that he does plan on leveraging all that he knows and all the folks that he knows including members of community empowerment associated with Rashad Byrdsong and Richard Garland of One Vision One Light. He said what they need is someone that knows the community to help them get over \$1.5 to \$1.6 million per year. He said it is a County initiative. He said they need to take some of the resource they have to help get some of these young brothers under control. He said it is important at this time. He said he can see the most violent ones right now are the ones between the ages of 14 and 18. He said the ones who are less than 18 years old are the ones that are the most feared in McKeesport right now. He said these are the ones they need to target right now. He said they need to connect with the school district. He said when they look at the 9<sup>th</sup> graders right now, they can almost predict what path they are on. He said they need to get these kids soon. He said he has been funded through the Heinz Foundation to do the program in Northview Heights. He said but certainly his appeal to Heinz as well as the Pittsburgh Foundation will be that McKeesport needs it as well as Northview Heights. He said he will personally be making out the proposal to say that he needs resources to do work in McKeesport. He said for so long in Pittsburgh it has been what has been happening to try to reduce violence. He said McKeesport is turning into someplace that he does not know. He said this violence thing is something that they have not been common or privy to in McKeesport. He said they need to be engaged right now and need to collaborate on many, many levels. He said he and the Police Chief have collaborated on some things. He said they need to make sure they endorse this policy that they are going to protect what is here. He said in Northview Heights they have stopped reporters from coming in

even for positive events because they call it private property. He said they need to give as much attention to this problem as possible. He said sometimes it is negative but sometimes it is positive but what they say is let's progress to another level. He said he has seen over 600 preschool graduates and over 160 high school graduates and over 47 college graduates in Northview Heights, a place they said they could not succeed and achieve what the American dream is all about. He said McKeesport is on his radar right now. He said anything he can do to help them they can call him. He said he will call them if he needs their help because his thing is that they have to target where this is happening and get these boys into a place where they can get the instruction needed to become productive citizens.

- Mr. McLaughlin said he thinks the Mayor and the Chief have been talking to a lot of people that he knows of and have been working hard to try and do that. He said he personally believes that the kids of that age group ... it is time to go into the homes and make the parents take care of their kids.
- Mr. Murphy said a lot of the families are afraid of their children.
- Mr. McLaughlin said he is right one hundred percent but they were not afraid and he thinks that is what they have to do.
- Mr. Murphy said the old school way was always good but they have some folks that don't have parenting skills like what they had back in the day. He said the adults in this community, for example in Chicago, 29 people were shot over the weekend. He said they called a prayer vigil and 3,000 people showed up and took up 10 city blocks. He said what has happened on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday .... He said what he is telling him is that consistency breeds

success. He said they come out for a prayer vigil but if they don't do anything about it ... they had 3,000 mentors right there. He said imagine 3,000 mentors connected with one individual or 3,000 young men or young women. He said he is not even restricting it to young men anymore because the young ladies are out of control too.

- Mr. McLaughlin said they are worse than some of the men.
- Mayor Brewster said does he have this program in the school.
- Mr. Murphy said he has the program in Northview Heights. He said he is trying to get McKeesport School District to let him do something for grades nine through twelve.
- Mayor Brewster said that is his point.
- Mr. Murphy said he is going to connect with a church where he can invite these young men in and feed them and give them quality instruction and show them that this is what it takes to be a man.
- Mayor Brewster said not to debate with Fawn because he did not intend on doing that but they have exhausted everything they can with the facilities they have. He said he still thinks that the connection is the schools. He said he doesn't want to make it sound like he is bashing the school but when you have 10 year olds and they have them on campus site they should not just let people go home at 3:00. He said then he shows up at 7:00 and the police show up at 10:00. He said they have to get the kids who go to school together. He said they may live in Crawford, Harrison,

Sumac or Christy Park and get along at school but then they go home and say don't come to Crawford, don't come to Christy Park. He said they let that go but they shouldn't let that happen. He said they should say they are going to have programs tonight at 6:00 or 7:00 and play basketball at the new Cornell School. He said then get teams from all these places. He said that is why he needs the help to do that. He said he can open up the rec center at Harrison Village open all night but do you know who you have there, their friends. He said don't they want the kids to mix with other kids so these beefs stop.

- Mr. Murphy said the strange thing is that a lot of folks grew up in Harrison Village and Crawford and he is saying how is your child having problems in a place where they grew up. He said they aren't looking to build a relationship now because he has really had it up to here. He said this is not the McKeesport he knows.
- Mr. McLaughlin said approximately six or seven years ago, they sat in a room full of people, school board members and the superintendent of the schools and talked about keeping the schools open and that was the end of it. He said that was the end of it and that was seven years ago.
- Mr. Murphy said they need to take a proactive approach and they need to be demanding. He said this is no longer a situation that they can just be cooperative. He said they are looking at lives at stake now. He said especially when they bring in those Keystone exams. He said they will be looking at folks who might not graduate. He said African Americans are only graduating about 50% and with the Keystone exams tied on to that it might even be higher and they have very few choices other than the criminal element. He

said they need to put a stop to that. He said they need to put the pressure on the School District. He said they need to create a space in that new thing they are going to build or spaces where kids can come in and use computer labs. He said whatever might be able to be used by the kids, open to everybody.

- Mayor Brewster said he thinks that is the answer. He said the gymnasium, if they could keep it open, they do keep it open. He said doesn't Mr. Byrdsong have a program down there open to the young girls? He said he has used Mr. Byrdsong down at the Rec Center. He said people don't know that. He said he is not ... he said they have done some of this stuff. He said his feeling is that it is very difficult to keep doing these pockets of efforts whenever they meet each other at the mall then they fight. He said if you can get those pockets to come together ... and the schools already do that. He said why don't they just continue that. He said that is his only complaint.
- Mr. Segina said he hates to belabor a point that he already made earlier but he does have issues with Mr. Byrdsong. He said he doesn't like some of the ways he conducts himself when he comes into the City. He said he would like to see more community activists rather than someone coming in here bashing the municipal officials not coming to a meeting, then giving slick brochures out with blood dripping off of them saying killings in McKeesport. He said they don't need that. He said then they were on the front page of the Daily News emphasizing the violence in this town. He said he doesn't appreciate that. He said if it worked like say, Rally in the Valley ... he knows people in that organization and they are trying the best that they can. He said he doesn't know if they can go all the way with this ... they haven't but they are trying the best they

can. He said he would still like to keep it in town as opposed to someone coming from out of town and doing the things that they are doing.

- Mr. Murphy said his opinion on this is that they need to use everything. He said he would talk to Rashad Byrdsong and say listen he needs to get with someone from the community to help him navigate McKeesport. He said some of the climate that he comes from is a Pittsburgh type community and he needs to deal with the people he deals with best. He said what he needs ... and he has already told him that he would work with him ... is someone to help him figure out how to navigate is way around the community. He said coming in and just spot-checking and saying what he has been saying is just wrong. He said he already told him he would work with him on this. He said the other thing is ... Rashad has resources and they need to leverage those resources to be a positive influence in McKeesport and that is what he is going to try and impress upon Rashad versus him saying my way or no way.
- Mr. Segina said he will start bashing the municipal officials all the time. He said he remembers the first meeting down at the Palisades when he all those people around and a big lavish luncheon down there and they sat there. He said he was the only white guy there. He said he never got invited to the walk afterward and never heard from him again.
- Ms. Diggs said Mike Doyle was at the meeting.
- Mr. Segina said Mike Doyle was not at the meeting.

- Mr. Murphy said how he deals with the Mayor of Pittsburgh, he just can't do that in every city that he goes to.
- Mr. Segina said they should let local people handle local problems. He said that is the way he likes to see it.
- Mr. Murphy said sometimes local folks talk it but they don't walk it. He said he is tired of folks ... there are enough meetings as Fawn said there are a lot of meetings but there is not a lot of activity. He said now if they can find ways to leverage activity, they need to be out there and be engaged. He said that has been the success of his agency.
- Mr. McLaughlin said Mr. Murphy said Ms. Walker is going to all of these meetings. He said well why does Ms. Walker know about all of these meetings and they don't know about them.
- Mr. Murphy said communication, they all know what leadership is about. He said it is about communication. He said that is something they need to fix.
- Ms. Walker said is Rege asking her to call him when there is a meeting because she will.
- Mr. McLaughlin said no, he is wondering how she knows about them and they don't know about them.
- Mayor Brewster said she has talked to Richard Garland from One Vision One Light and told him she got with him and said they will be in touch with him and will contact him as needed. He said they hope they never need him and he knows that.
- Mr. Murphy said part of One Vision One Light from what he sees is sometimes it is a response to something. He



said they need to hold them to their vision of saying if you are going out there to curb the violence that means they have to be out there working to do that. He said that means there has to be accountability if they want to come into this town to do something, then they need to hold them to it. He said if Mr. Garland says he wants to bring One Vision One Light then he needs to identify the individuals that he wants to bring to McKeesport, then connect them with some local people to help them navigate their way through this and then they know they have something happening. He said but if he comes in after someone dies and it is just bullhorn talk, then it doesn't work.

- Mr. Segina said that is exactly what it is.
- Mr. Murphy said they have to try to build and form some relationships here, which he is committed to doing right now.
- Mayor Brewster said if Keith can act as an intermediary with those organizations that works for them.
- Mr. Murphy said let's do that.
- Mayor Brewster said right now he can understand what Darryl is saying because they kind of bullied their way in. He said he knows there is value there but as the Mayor he is getting surrounded and he is trying to figure out who has credibility, where should the money be spent, and how is this going to be paid for. He said some people have this idea that there is unlimited money to be spent and there isn't. He said if he has someone that has resources that they can work through, BJ and he will be happy to do that. He said some of these things they are already talking about so thank you.

- Mr. Murphy said thank you.

**TABLED BILLS:**

**BILL #160: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE MANSFIELD BRIDGE.**

Bill #160 remained on the Table.

**BILL #49: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A ZONING APPLICATION FOR A CONDITIONAL USE & SITE PLAN APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT AN ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL AT THE FORMER PALKOVITZ PROPERTY AT THE END OF EASLER & ALLISON STREETS, McKEESPORT, PA.**

Bill #49 remained on the Table.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #2010-39 – BILL #51: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO THE ATTACHED SUB-GRANTEE AGREEMENT WITH THE McKEESPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

**MOTION: Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To adopt Bill #51."**

**RC-5 YEAS: WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, CHEREPKO ... 4**

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ABSTAIN: SEGINA ..... 1

- Mr. Segina abstained because he is a member of the Board of McKeesport Development Corporation.

**RESOLUTION #2010-40 – BILL #52: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO THE ATTACHED SUB-GRANTEE AGREEMENT WITH THE McKEESPORT HOUSING CORPORATION.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, "To adopt Bill #52."

**RC-6** YEAS: WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA, CHEREPKO..... 5

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2010-41 – BILL #53: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A SUB-GRANTEE AGREEMENT WITH McKEESPORT NEIGHORHOOD INITIATIVE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF \$1.4 MILLION OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEVENTH WARD OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Cherepko, "To adopt Bill #53."

**RC-7** YEAS: WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA, CHEREPKO..... 5

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2010-42 – BILL #54: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LaROSA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF McKEESPORT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00 FOR THE YEAR 2010 WITH THE COST TO BE BORNE BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT B-10-MC-42-0106.**

**MOTION: Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, "To adopt Bill #54."**

**RC-8** YEAS: WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA,  
CHEREPKO..... 5

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2010-43 – BILL #55: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT FOR THE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM.**

**MOTION: Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Cherepko, "To adopt Bill #55."**

**RC-9** YEAS: WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA,  
CHEREPKO..... 5

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2010-44 – BILL #56: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DAVID COLLURA, WILDLIFE PEST CONTROL AGENT, FOR THE CAPTURE AND REMOVAL OF NUISANCE WILDLIFE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2010 PROGRAM.**

**MOTION:**        **Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Cherepko, "To adopt Bill #56."**

<b>RC-10</b>	<b>YEAS:</b>	WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA, CHERPKO.....	5
	<b>NAYS:</b>	NONE.....	0

**RESOLUTION #2010-45 – BILL #57: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2431 AMENDING THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION TO RADICALLY ALTER THE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Segina said he would just like to comment that this particular bill was presented to the State House trying to encourage uniting all these communities into one through the counties. He said he thinks everyone here would agree that they would not want to sit and wait for someone from the county to come and do something for the City of McKeesport under one umbrella. He said he knows there are some communities that should be merged into one community but to put them under one umbrella like that ... it

**MOTION:** Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, "To adopt Bill #57."

## **AMEND THE AGENDA:**

**RC-12** YEAS: WALKER, McLAUGHLIN, DIGGS, SEGINA,  
CHEREPKO..... 5

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**MOTION:** Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Mr. Segina, "To adopt Bill #58."

- 38 -

- Mr. Segina said they just passed an important Bill and asked the Mayor to explain what they are trying to do here.
- Mayor Brewster said in the midst of all the other projects they have going on they are trying to work with UPMC McKeesport to try and do something in that corridor when you come into McKeesport off the Duquesne Bridge and in from the East End. He said they are doing some demolition and trying to beautify the area. He said they meet every month with the CEO of UPMC. He said Dennis was good enough to go out with the Conservancy and have them come in. He said they are going to try to put some shrubs and flowers in lots where there were blighted buildings that have been torn down. He said they are also going to address the cannon area and try to get some flowers in that area. He said the rational is that when families, who don't live here, come in to visit their loved ones, it looks a little bit in disrepair and they are trying to spruce it up. He said that is just the beginning. He said they actually have two or three property owners of properties they think will be better served in the hands of UPMC and they have agreed to talk to him, the Foundation and the Hospital. He said they are making some progress so they can maintain their hospital and the number of jobs they have and services they provide.

**CONTROLLER'S REPORT:**

- Mr. Malinchak said he has a couple of questions. He said just to bring Council, the Mayor and the public up to date. He said he just received on his desk when he arrived here the audit report for the Year ending December 31, 2009. He said this is the copy that the Auditor, Mr. Tomovcsik sends off to the State. He said he has a couple of questions that maybe Mr. Pittman can answer. He said on the report there is a revenue source there under Other Financial Sources that

is called Proceeds of a Short Term Debt in the amount of \$1.5 million.

- Mr. Pittman said that is the Tax Anticipation Note.
- Mr. Malinchak said okay, that is the way they capture it. He said the highlights of the report that he thinks are very significant and very important are that the fund balance at the end of the year turned out to be a negative amount of \$175,489.00. He said they have to look at that with the back drop that is in the same category that he just asked Mr. Pittman about, Other Financial Sources, showing the proceeds of the Liquidation of Assets of \$2.563 million. He said so if it were not for the liquidation of assets in the year 2009, the City would have finished the year with a deficit of \$2.7 million. He said as they well know there are some other revenue strings that the Mayor covered very well coming online in the year 2010. He said they can see right now that if the level does not achieve \$2.7 million, they are headed for another deficit year.
- Mr. Segina said what assets did they liquidate in 2009.
- Mr. Malinchak said the interceptors.
- Mr. Segina said that was a good move.
- Mayor Brewster said he is not saying it was not a good liquidation.
- Mr. Malinchak said he is just saying they can't do it this year again.
- Mayor Brewster said he doesn't want them to have any dialogue about this again. He said there have been no secrets about this. He said they inherited a huge hole. He said he never thought he would be in a position that he would have to start telling people to put things in



perspective but it is part of being a Mayor. He said he does have to remind them of the deficit that the Federal government has. He said they can print money. He said if they pay attention to the State budget they have a \$3 or \$4 billion dollar hole next year. He said these are huge dollars. He said these are going to cut programs that they talk about and they need to resist that. He said why would it be hard to understand that McKeesport would have a cash flow problem. He said for seven years he has been hearing about what is going to happen tomorrow. He said they have gotten very creative and fortunately have some good minds that know finance and have some experience in the banking business. He said they have also gotten out from under some assets that were going to be very expensive for them although they had value. He said if someone owns ten blighted homes, there is some pool out there that will buy them. He said those are assets. He said sewage bills are assets. He said if a bank has delinquent credit cards, those are assets. He said they are worth something. He said for the City to sit there with those things and do nothing with them but to continue to carry that burden is bad business. He said these things should have been done years ago. He said they have shared with Ray their future at least this year and they have not talked too much with Council but he knows Ray has inquired about the long-term debt, the bonds and some refinancing. He said it is his hope that between now and the end of the year that they will be able to do some of that with Ray's involvement as they have done in the past. He said he believes that they will be able to create another fund balance by the end of this year. He said they do not get enough tax revenue to cover expenses. He said there is not enough normal revenue to pay bills. He said that has not happened in the seven years since he has been there.

- Mr. Malinchak said there is another issue here too and it has just fallen through the cracks. He said looking at some of the statistics and he may have the wrong year because his memory is not too good when he does not have paper in front of him. He said their total real estate assessment for the community is \$307 million. He said at one time it was \$370 million. He said it has gone down 22%. He said that is about \$300,000 less in real estate taxes. He said he has seen so many memos from Mr. Pittman and wondered how these people are winning these appeals. He said there is a 50% reduction in some of these.
- Mayor Brewster said that is just a minor problem.
- Mr. Pittman said he can offer a little Latin phrase known as "nolo contendere."
- Mayor Brewster said he thinks the important thing is to understand is since they have the meeting here and an audience and that he is the Controller in the 31<sup>st</sup> largest City in the State of Pennsylvania out of 2,559. He said they are number 31 and that is not too shabby. He said there are only 13 or 14 that he knows of that are Act 47 which means they are in bankruptcy up to and including Pittsburgh, which is the 60<sup>th</sup> largest city in the nation. He said when they talk about their problems, he likes to think they have done well. He said Ray is right, when does the well run out ... he hopes never. He said he was at the Pennsylvania League of Cities meeting and Harrisburg, Williamsport and some of the biggest cities have huge problems just like McKeesport and some even worse. He said that is why he has focused on long-term debt refinancing and taking advantage of bonds that concurrently ... so that when he leaves here twenty years from now this Marcellus shale is an issue. He said there is gold under the city. He said it may well be the saving grace of the City and not just McKeesport but others. He said he is hoping that the State gets focused on the fact

because everyone is grabbing. He said the gas companies don't want the severance tax, DEP wants their money because their budget was cut 20%, the host communities where drilling occurs want special compensation for road damage, and others like Darryl and him want revenue sharing. He said he is hoping to get people together to say look ... how do they divvy this money up to save communities. He said there is a small group of people out there that thinks there should not be 2,559 communities. He said that person thinks there should be one. He said he does not believe in that. He said they sell their services and share their services. He said he is opposed to mergers however. He said if someone is a State Rep and in favor of a merger then you are not in favor of revenue sharing because it does not help you with your cost. He said failure of communities is what causes metropolitanism. He said that is what some people want. He said look at the RAD money. He said McKeesport gets \$600,000 a year in RAD money. He said they could not cut a blade of grass in Renzie Park without RAD money. He said they should thank them every day. He said if they had to do that with the General Fund they would not have a park. He said when they talk about the audit they should be clear; they are running on creativity. He said there is a gap between money they take in and money they need to do the basics. He said the stimulus money gave them \$100,000 to do demolition and the ability to buy six vehicles. He said they would not have been able to do it without that money. He said they have been fortunate that these gaps have been filled each year. He said he feels confident that they have a few more rabbits in the hat. He said there is no question that every time someone wins an appeal; they lose revenue. He said how do you tell folks not to appeal their assessment.

- Mr. Malinchak said he can't believe some of the memos Mr. Pittman sends.

- Mayor Brewster said throw them away, that's what he does with most of them.
- Mr. Malinchak said throw them away ... that is why they got down to \$307 million ... because he was issuing too many memos.
- Mr. Segina said the liquidation of assets is nothing new to the City of McKeesport. He said everyone in Allegheny County is doing it ... look at the City of Pittsburgh and what they are doing with their leasing rate on their parking. He said if he lived in Pittsburgh, he would be afraid right now. He said fifty years for \$211 million for the leasing rate. He said McKeesport sold their greatest asset, the water authority, years ago. He said it was their biggest revenue maker and they sold it because outside pressure was put on the Mayor and Council. He said they no longer have the water authority in this town because of outside pressure, lost all of their employees and it was the worst thing that could possibly happen to this town and the biggest liquidation of assets ever. He said he doesn't like to see it but balancing the budget is ....
- Mr. Malinchak said he was just answering Mr. Segina's question where the \$2.6 million came from. He said Mr. Segina asked him where the \$2.6 million came from.
- Mr. McLaughlin said they have to hold on to the other biggest asset they have which is the Municipal Authority.
- Mr. Malinchak said basically that is the only thing they have left. He said the other item for Mr. Pittman is that he just signed a check a couple days ago for municipal waste that was \$98,000.00. He said they budgeted \$937,000.00. He said right now they are at the halfway mark and they are at \$1.1 million. He said this is another potential overage of

\$200,000. He said are people generating more garbage or did their rates go up.

- Mayor Brewster said the rates did not go up.
- Mr. Malinchak said the last check that went out was \$97,000 and usually they were about \$80,000.
- Mayor Brewster said maybe it was spring cleaning.
- Mr. Malinchak said up to July 5 they spent \$568,000 and their budget was \$937,000. He said if they continue at the current pace they will overspend by \$200,000. He said there is the \$100,000 that they just got from the stimulus money.
- Mr. Segina said the only answer to that is recycle.
- Mr. Malinchak said maybe that is the problem that people are not recycling enough. He said Nick said before that if that paper gets into the garbage it will cost a lot of money. He said what are they paying \$80.00 or \$90.00 a ton now.
- Mr. McLaughlin said how long have they been in the recycle business.
- Mr. Segina said since 1992.
- Mr. McLaughlin said his next door neighbor has not put a piece of paper in the recycling bin since 1992. He said he puts it in the garbage.
- Mr. Segina said there is an ordinance on the books that says they can fine them. He said they have never done anything like that and that is why they are falling back on recycling. He said that is the only way to take the waste out of the landfill and decrease the cost there.

- Mr. Malinchak said then you get a double whammy.
- Mr. Segina said they are going to pay the same price no matter what they pick up on recycling. He said right now they are not getting everything.
- Ms. Diggs said she is the only one in a three or four block area. She said no one recycles there in years.
- Mr. Malinchak said the Chief was proposing an interesting communication technique where it really becomes a way of notifying individuals of a certain situations and he is just wondering if they could integrate that in with their website which is kind of stalled. He said the details could be put on the website with the information people need. He said is the website done now or is it stalled.
- Mayor Brewster said not really, he has actually gotten compliments on it from people calling up. He said they continue to give him data and if there is anything Ray would like to put on the site, he can give it to him.
- Mr. Malinchak said the other thing he wanted to bring up goes back to a question Mr. Segina had about three or four months ago about how many rents were attached on delinquent properties. He said a month later Mr. Elash provided them with a list of 27 properties. He said he wondered if there was any progress on whether any of these rents have actually been attached or whether they have seen any revenue from any of these delinquent property owners.
- Mr. Elash said he has not received any further correspondence. He said he and Mr. Pittman were talking about that this afternoon.
- Mayor Brewster said did they itemize that on the bill.

- Mr. Elash said no.
- Mayor Brewster said he should ask them to do that. He said if they have identified 27 properties where they are attaching rents and they send a check, they should itemize that that is what they have done. He said he thinks they send them a lump sum.
- Mr. Malinchak said did they attach the rents.
- Mr. Pittman said it is not broken out, so they don't know.
- Mr. Malinchak said the next logical question is if they have 27, then when are the next 27 coming. He said they can't tell him there are only 27 property owners in the community that have renters in them that are property tax delinquent.
- Mr. Elash said they need to set up a meeting with that organization to go over that to try to get some more started.
- Mr. Malinchak said they can go back to his request of four years ago and they are still waiting for that package that they promised the Mayor, him and Mr. Elash, and Council President. He said he would still like the box by year of how many delinquencies, what they collect, how many are open, what do we get, and what do they get on a yearly basis. He said he has never seen that report. He said he thinks four years is a long enough time to wait for the package to arrive. He said the Mayor is smiling.
- Mayor Brewster said he has to smile or the President will put him out of the meeting.
- Mr. Malinchak said no he won't, you are his boss.
- Mayor Brewster said no, Council is his boss.
- Mr. McLaughlin said that isn't his boss.

- Mr. Malinchak said maybe after this one he will get thrown out. He said reading the Home Rule Charter there is a section there called Fidelity Bonds. He said it is his understanding from Mr. Pittman that five of them are bonded: Patty, Laura, Cheryl, himself and the Mayor. He said in seven years he has never seen one bit of U.S. currency pass through his desk. He said here is what the Home Rule Charter says "any other officer, agent or employee of the City as the Council may determine, shall execute and file with the City corporate surety bonds, conditioned for the honest and faithful performance of their duties,..." He said would the International Committee be exempt from this.
- Mayor Brewster said who is the International Committee.
- Mr. Malinchak said the International Village Committee who handles cash, are they bonded.
- Mayor Brewster said he thought Ray was talking about Interpol or something.
- Mr. Pittman said the garage attendants are not bonded.
- Mr. Segina said yes they are bonded. He said Laura Green is bonded.
- Mr. Malinchak said the people who are actually handling the cash out there, are they bonded.
- Mayor Brewster said no. He said they are volunteers at the gate.
- Mr. Malinchak said according to the Home Rule Charter, should they be bonded?
- Mr. Segina said if Ray is going to nit-pick like that, how can they bond every person that is working there, they would



never open the gates. He said what is he trying to do with this.

- Mr. Malinchak said Darryl has been here longer than him, he is just asking a question. He said he and Dennis are bonded, why do they have to be bonded. He said they are bonded for \$400,000.
- Mayor Brewster said from a logical perspective it is hard to get volunteers to work the gate and if they had to get all of them bonded they probably would not get very many so they have to roll the dice. He said look at all the events. He said look at the Day of Peace ... is anyone bonded ... so do you not do it because they are not bonded. He said they have to bend a little bit and say the cause is more important.
- Mr. Malinchak said the thing that bothers him is that he has never seen any currency as long as he has been here and he is bonded for \$400,000.
- Mayor Brewster said that is because he signs checks.
- Mr. Malinchak said those checks are just paper trails and there are two people who sign checks.
- Mayor Brewster said the purpose of that is so that you don't write checks to yourself or one to him.
- Mr. Malinchak said he understands.
- Mr. Segina said what is Ray's answer for that. He said who does Ray want to bond. He said try to do in a way that he could handle this problem because there is a cause and effect. He said how is Ray going to bond everybody out there as he wants to do and make sure that none of the money is stolen.

- MOTION:** Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Cherepko, "To approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$76,707.99."

- Mr. Pittman said, in front of all the Council, he is going to give Ray a flyer that describes the Power of 32. He said apparently there is going to be a community forum to put together a four-state, 32 county to talk about doing some planning for the future. He said if he has time the information is on the sheet in front of him. He said the Hospital, Penn State and the School District and others are going to be part of that. He said it is voluntary and McKeesport has been chosen as a target area to get opinions to set some of this new policy. He said the hope is that within the next 18 months they will have a position paper that can be delivered to the President of the United States,

four Governors, and eight U.S. Senators. He said if they have this and are willing to participate in this it is purely voluntary. He said Council has it and he wants Ray to have one as well. He said the

- Mr. Malinchak said can any of the citizens participate in this.
- Mr. Pittman said yes. He said he is going to give this to the media tonight and ask them to put this in the newspaper as well if they would be so kind.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President of Council Regis McLaughlin adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Williams  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Regis T. McLaughlin  
President of Council

daw